

**GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 27, 2006**

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy board meeting was held on October 27, 2006, 9:00am, at The Professional Licensing Boards division offices located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following members were present:

Steve Earles
Jane H. Johnson
Kathy V. Lescak
Melony Phillips

Absent: Marlene Gaskill

Others Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, Amanda Allen, Board Secretary, Serena Gadson, Application Specialist II, Janet Wray, Assistant Attorney General

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Boards meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Agenda:

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board approved the Agenda with no corrections required.

Announcements:

No announcements to report.

Executive Director Reports:

No Report

Ms. Lescak moved and Ms. Phillips seconded and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §43-1-2(k)(1)(2), 43-1-19(h)(2)&(4), §43-1-2(k)(4) and 50-14-2(1) and to deliberate on Applications. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Earles, Phillips, Lescak and Johnson. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on these matters and to continue with the public session.

Applications:

Discussion continued from last meeting with regard to the two applications received for approval of a massage therapy education program. Due to concerns voiced by the Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Wray, with regard to the wording of the proposed chapter (345-8) and the subsequent update of the application form, the Board chose to declare themselves out of the closed session for the purpose of discussing the actual applications received, and to continue work on the development of the proposed chapter 345-8. In addition, the Board requested the

two schools who did submit applications for approval of their programs be written requesting additional information with regard to any changes in the proposed Chapter 345-8 (discussion to follow) for further discussion/consideration by the Board at a later date.

Continued Rule Discussion:

The Board continued their discussion/development of Chapters/Rules:

Proposed Chapter 345-8 Requirements – Board Recognized Massage Therapy Education Program:

The Board discussed at length the proposed chapter on the requirements massage therapy educational programs will have to meet or exceed for consideration and approval by the Board as a “recognized approved program”. Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Wray, suggested to the Board the need for specific hours to be “spelled out” in the proposed chapter/rule for the varied curriculum items and course content descriptions.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED
CHAPTER TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY RULES:
CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIREMENTS - BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY
EDUCATION PROGRAM AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy (hereinafter “Board”) proposes a chapter for the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy Rules, Chapter 345-8, Requirements – Board Recognized Massage Therapy Education Program (herein after “proposed chapter adoption”).

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed chapter and a synopsis of the proposed chapter, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed chapter, and a synopsis of the proposed chapter may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

A public hearing will be held at 9:10 a.m. on January 5, 2007, at the Secretary of State’s Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed chapter.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for official record. Oral statements should be presented in person. Written comments are welcome. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of

business (5:00 P.M.) on December 29, 2006. Written comments should be addressed to Mollie L. Fleeman, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Massage Therapy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Telephone (478) 207-2440 or fax (478) 207-1633.

The Board will consider the proposed chapter for adoption at a meeting scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m. on January 5, 2007 at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy has the authority to adopt a proposed Chapter 345-8 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-3 and 43-24A-8.

At its meeting on October 27, 2006 the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy voted that the formulation and adoption of this chapter does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed chapter cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.G.C.A. § 50-13-3 and 43-24A-8.

Additionally, at the meeting, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-3 and 43-24A-8 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this chapter will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated in the field of massage therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the _____ day of _____, 2006.

Mollie L. Fleeman
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: _____

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHAPTER TO THE
GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY RULES;
CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIREMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed chapter is to outline the general requirements accepted by the Board regarding massage therapy educational programs pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-3 and 43-24A-8.

MAIN FEATURES: The main feature of the proposed chapter is to provide information of the acceptable minimum requirements of massage therapy educational programs.

**THE PROPOSED CHAPTER TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY,
CHAPTER 345-8 REQUIREMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSGE THERAPY
EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

NOTE: Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined through text is proposed to be deleted.

Chapter 345-8 Requirements – Board Recognized Massage Therapy Education Program

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345-8-.01 Curriculum Requirements

In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must have a minimum curriculum of five-hundred (500) total clock hours of supervised classroom and supervised hands-on instruction. For purposes of this rule, "supervised" means the supervisor is physically on-site, qualified and immediately available. The minimum required subject matter and activities and the minimum required hours are as follows:

(a) A minimum of one hundred twenty-five (125) hours of in-class supervised instruction in human anatomy, physiology and kinesiology;

(b) A minimum of forty (40) hours of in-class supervised instruction in pathology;

(c) A minimum of two-hundred hours (200) in massage therapy theory, technique and practice, which must include in-class supervised instruction of clinical techniques and hands-on clinical practice and must include, at a minimum, the following subject matters: effleurage/gliding; petrissage/kneading; compression; friction, tapotement/percussion; vibration; direct pressure; superficial warming techniques; pumping; stretching; jostling; shaking; rocking;

(d) A minimum of one hundred twenty-five (125) hours of in-class supervised instruction in contraindications, benefits, universal precautions, body mechanics, massage history, client data collection, documentation, and legalities of massage, professional standards including draping and modesty, therapeutic relationships and communications;

(e) A minimum of ten (10) hours of in-class supervised instruction in ethics and business (to include a minimum of six (6) hours in ethics); and

(f) Of the five hundred (500) total clock hours, the curriculum must include a minimum of fifty (50) hours in supervised student clinical practice, but no more than sixty (60) hours in supervised student clinical practice. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit a massage therapy school that has a curriculum greater than five hundred (500) hours from having more supervised student clinical practice so long as it has at least four hundred and forty (440) hours of in-class supervised instruction.

345-8-.02 Faculty Requirements

(1) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must have a faculty that consists of a sufficient number of full and part-time instructors to ensure that the educational obligations to the student are fulfilled. Lab, clinical and community course core (lead) faculty must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of 2 years or 2000 hours of experience in their field. Human sciences course core (lead) faculty (anatomy, pathology, physiology) must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of 2 years or 2000 hours experience in their field and/or by appropriate degrees/certificates from approved colleges/schools/institutions.

(2) If a school utilizes faculty assistants, in order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, it shall establish and maintain policies that set forth qualifications, duties and procedures for use of these personnel. Faculty assistants shall not be used as substitutes or replacements for regular faculty; shall not be responsible for the overall evaluation of any student; and shall work under the direct supervision of approved faculty.

(3) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the ratio of students to faculty in the lab/clinical/community area shall not exceed 20 students to 1 instructor with no more than 10 student therapists and 10 students serving as clients. Lecture classes are not subject to this ratio.

(4) On or after June 30, 2007, when student clinical practice is being performed on the general public, the supervising clinical faculty instructor(s) shall hold a current state license, if a state license is required to practice massage therapy in that state.

345-8-.03 Additional Requirements

(1) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must require that each student have a minimum grade of 70% in order to receive credit/hours in massage therapy related course and clinical work.

(2) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must maintain a written program, philosophy and objectives.

(3) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must maintain course outlines or syllabi for all massage therapy courses.

(4) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must provide a student handbook.

(5) In order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must maintain permanent student records that summarize the credentials for admission, attendance, grades and other records of performance.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 50-13-3 and 43-24A-8

Following discussion, Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to post proposed rule 345-8 Requirements – Board Recognized Massage Therapy Educational Program, as updated below, pending receipt of the Attorney General’s Memo of Authority:

Proposed Chapter/Rule discussion (continued): Exemptions from Licensure Requirements:

Discussion of the possible exemptions from licensure as a massage therapist as described, not named, in the O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-19 was tabled until a later meeting to provide time for the Board Chair to share information obtained with the Attorney General’s office in order to allow time for the Attorney General’s representative to review the materials and provide advice.

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to table discussion of a proposed chapter/rule on exemptions from licensure pending additional information to be presented.

Correspondence

Discussion continued from last meeting with regard to the two written requests for approval of two entities “examinations”. In the promulgation of the rules to date, the Board has made the decision to utilize a nationally recognized exam, as prescribed in their law, for this interim initial licensure period.

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to table discussion of other organizations, entities or massage therapy educational programs examinations as part of the licensure requirements in Georgia until after the start of the new year, 2007.

The Board members inquired about the volume of applications submitted to date. Due to only a minimum amount having been received, the Board voted to cancel the scheduled meeting for November 3, 2006. Instead, the Board made the decision to remain in Macon following the November 30, 2006 scheduled meeting and meet in a “work session” on December 1, 2006 for the specific purpose of reviewing applications (closed session).

There being no additional business to discuss, Ms. Lescak moved and Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to adjourn today’s meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Amanda Allen, Board Secretary
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

Jane H. Johnson, Chair

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on: _____.